



NEWS Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 14, 2017

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Public Comment Open for Proposed Electrical Extension Project at Bannack State Park

-Comments due by May 6, 2017 at 5pm-

(Dillon, MT) – Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that it is seeking public comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed Electrical Service Installation at the Yankee Flats Group Use Shelter at Bannack State Park near Dillon, MT. **Public comments are accepted through Saturday, May 6th, 2017 at 5pm.**

The proposed project would contract with the local electric service provider, Vigilante Electric Cooperative, to extend electrical service from existing electric infrastructure on the north side of Grasshopper Creek to Bannack State Park's existing Yankee Flats Group Use Shelter on the south side of Grasshopper Creek. The project would be completed with the financial assistance and cooperation of the Historic Masonic Lodge #3-7-77 and the Bannack Association Friends Group.

The group use shelter was constructed in 2011 for picnics, dances, wedding receptions, interpretive programs, and other public gatherings. The area is unlit and can present safety hazards for public utilizing the shelter after dark. Extending the electrical service would provide electricity to groups that rent the shelter and allow for the installation of exterior security lighting to improve public safety and reduce vandalism. The new electrical service will also facilitate the installation of a fire detection system and alarm to protect the facility and the historic townsite of Bannack.

To view a full copy of the environmental assessment visit stateparks.mt.gov and click "Public Notices" or by direct link here: http://stateparks.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0069.html

The public comment period will be open for 21 days. **Public comments will be accepted through Saturday, May 6, 2017 5 pm.**

The public can submit written comments to Bannack State Park Yankee Flats Electrical Project, FWP Region 3 Headquarters, 1400 19th Ave SO, Bozeman, MT 59718, or email to mmarcinek@mt.gov.

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